

TOP SECRET

1089

GENERAL

1. Western commandants to shift tactics in Berlin--According to US Political Adviser Riddleberger, the US and French commandants in Berlin have agreed to the suggestion of the British commandant that the three western representatives should adopt a "more receptive attitude" toward Soviet proposals in quadripartite meetings. The western commandants reportedly will try to go further than before to meet Soviet suggestions for bringing together German technical experts from both sides of the city but they will not grant even indirect recognition to the illegal Soviet Magistrat. The western commandants indicate that although they see little chance that this change of tactics will result in normalization of Berlin life, they want to present "as good a record of endeavor" as possible to any new meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers; the military officials express the view that western commandants have formerly been too prone to reject Soviet proposals on procedural grounds.

CIA - 5

(CIA Comment: CIA agrees there is little chance that Berlin life can really be normalized as a result of local discussions with the Soviet commandant. CIA believes that if the western commandants convene German experts from both sides of the city, the apprehension and pessimism of west Berliners over Allied policy in Berlin will be increased.)

State Dept., OSD reviews completed

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 Document No. _____
 NO CHANGES in Class. ☐
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 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (T)
 DDA Memo. 4 Apr 77
 Auth: DDA RFG. 77/1765
 Date: 14/3/77 By: _____

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